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SENT DEPARTMENT 2872, REPEATED INFORMATION PARIS 394, BONN 129, BERLIN 20, MOSCOW 82.

PARIS FOR EMBASSY USRO AND THURSTON

EMBTel 2799

IN FURTHER EXCHANGES WITH RUMBOLD ABOUT POSSIBLE FEDERAL REPUBLIC ECONOMIC PRESSURE ON GDR IN EVENT OF SOVIET-GDR MOVES AGAINST BERLIN, RUMBOLD SPECULATED THAT SOVIET-GDR ACTION MIGHT BE CONFINED TO ALLIED COMMUNICATIONS IN HOPE OF DIVIDING FEDERAL REPUBLIC FROM ALLIES, ACCOUNT FEDERAL REPUBLIC RELUCTANCE TO JEOPARDIZE ITS OWN COMMUNICATIONS BY APPLYING SANCTIONS. CONSIDERATION WAS BROUGHT OUT THAT IT MIGHT BE TO INTEREST OF WEST FOR FEDERAL REPUBLIC TO AVOID SANCTIONS WHICH MIGHT PROVOKE REPRISALS POSSIBLY LEADING TO INTERFERENCE WITH GERMAN TRAFFIC AND TO FULL SCALE BLOCKADE. RUMBOLD SAID THIS CONSIDERATION MIGHT WELL BE VALID BUT THAT ARGUMENT TO THIS EFFECT WOULD COME WITH BETTER GRACE FROM ALLIES THAN FROM FEDERAL REPUBLIC. HE MADE CLEAR IT WOULD SWEETEN ATMOSPHERE CONSIDERABLY IF FEDERAL REPUBLIC SHOWED WILLINGNESS TO APPLY SANCTIONS.

WHITNEY

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